

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A return path management system coupled between a user television and provider systems, the return path management system comprising:

~~which delivers return paths from user televisions to provider systems in a packetized form, comprising a return path server,~~

a provider database configured to maintain a service level of each of the provider systems;

a user database configured to ~~and a content database, wherein the provider database maintains providers information depending on levels which the provider systems belong to and which determine service levels, the user database maintains users information required for users authentication~~ of users;

a content database configured to ~~maintains contents of information provided from the~~ provider systems;; and

~~a~~ the return path server configured to receives order information from the user television, wherein the return path server determines a service level of a first provider system to which the received order information is to be delivered from the return path server by using the provider database, and performs selectively at least one of delivery of the order information, a user authentication process, a billing process and updating of the content database, identifies a provider to whom the received order information should be delivered, determines a service level based on the level which the provider belongs to in reference to the

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~~provider database, and performs interpretation and communication packetization of the order~~
~~information depending on~~ in response to the determined service level.

2. (Currently Amended) The return path management system ~~of as set forth in~~ claim 1,
wherein the determined service levels of each of the provider systems are categorized into a
first service level, a second service level, a third service level and a fourth service level,

wherein with the service level of the first provider system being the first service level,
the return path server verifies a URL of the first provider system through the received order
information and delivers the received order information to the first provider system,

wherein with the service level of the first provider system being the second service
level, the return path server performs the user authentication process with reference to the
user database,

wherein with the service level of the first provider system being the third service
level, the return path server performs the user authentication process with reference to the
user database and the billing process in contact with a financial server, and

wherein with the service level of the first provider being the fourth service level, the
return path server performs the user authentication process with reference to the user database
and the billing process in contact with the financial server, the provider database maintains
the providers information by categorizing each of the provider systems into any one of four
levels based on the service level requested from the provider, and the return path server
identifies the provider and determines the service level referring to the received order
information and the provider database, and then, if the user's order is determined to be
delivered to the provider system belonging to a first level, the return path server identifies an

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~~URL address of the provider system from the order information and delivers the received order information to the provider system in a packetized form, if the user's order is determined to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a second level, the return path server performs a user authentication referring to the order information and the user database, and delivers a user authentication information in combination with the received order information to the provider system in a packetized form, if the user's order is determined to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a third level, the return path server performs a user authentication referring to the order information and the user database, extracts a billing information from the order information to perform a billing processing in contact with a financial server as a representative of the provider, and delivers a user authentication information and a billing processing information in combination with the received order information to the provider system in a packetized form, or if the user's order is determined to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a fourth level, the return path server performs a user authentication referring to the order information and the user database, extracts a billing information from the order information to perform a billing processing in contact with a financial server as a representative of the provider, delivers a user authentication information and a billing processing information in combination with the received order information to the provider system in a packetized form, and updates the a content database with the order information in response to a request of referring to contents received from the first provider system.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The return path management system ~~as set forth in~~ of claim 2,
wherein ~~with the service level of the first provider system being the if the user's order~~
~~is determined to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a first service level, a~~
communication packet delivered from the return path ~~management system~~ server to the first
provider system ~~contains a~~ includes the service level of the first provider system, the a
destination uniform resource locator (URL) of the first provider system and an encapsulated
~~packet of the order information;~~

~~wherein with the service level of the first provider system being the if the user's order~~
~~is determined to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a second service level, a~~
communication packet delivered from the return path server to the provider system includes
~~the contains a~~ service level of the first provider system, the a destination URL of the provider
system, a user authentication identification information and ~~the an encapsulated packet of the~~
order information;

~~wherein with the service level of the first provider system being the if the user's order~~
~~is determined to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a third service level, a~~
communication packet delivered from the return path server management system to the
provider system includes ~~contains a~~ service level of the first provider system, the a
destination URL of the provider system, the a user authentication identification information, a
billing ~~processing~~ information and ~~the an encapsulated packet of the~~ order information; and

~~wherein with the service level of the first provider system being the if the user's order~~
~~is determined to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a fourth service level, a~~
communication packet delivered from the return path server management system to the
provider system includes the ~~contains a~~ service level of the first provider system, the a

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destination URL of the provider system, the a user identification information, the a billing-processing information, the order ~~other order-related~~ information and application-related information.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The return path management system as set forth in claim 1 4, further comprising a first transaction server, a second transaction server, a third transaction server, ~~return path server~~ and a fourth transaction servers coupled to the return path server, wherein the first, second, third and fourth transaction servers process the received order information differently in accordance with the service level ~~return path server receives an order information from the user, identifies the provider system to which the order information is required to be delivered and determines the level to which the identified provider system belongs, referring to the provider system, and a first transaction server of the four transaction servers treats the order information to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a first level, a second transaction server of the four transaction servers treats the order information to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a second level in which a user authentication is performed referring to the user database, a third transaction server of the four transaction servers treats the order information to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a third level in which a user authentication is performed referring to the user database and a billing processing is performed in contact with a financial server, and a fourth transaction server of the four transaction servers treats the order information to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a fourth level in which a user authentication is performed~~

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~~referring to the user database, a billing processing is performed in contact with a financial server, and an update of contents is performed referring to the content database.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A return path management method of managing return paths in a return path management system coupled between a user television and provider systems, the method comprising:

a) ~~providing a return path management system comprised of a provider database which maintainings providers information depending on service levels of which the provider requests, in which the return path management system receives order information from a user, identifies a provider to whom the received order information should be delivered, determines a service level of each of based on the level which the provider systems belongs to in reference to the provider database, and providing the determined service level;~~

b) receiving order information from the user television determining whether an order information from a user is received or not;

c) ~~if an order information from a user is received, identifying a provider to whom the received order information should be delivered, followed by determination of determining a service level of a first provider system to which the received order information is to be delivered from the return path management system based on the level which the provider belongs to in reference to the provider database; and~~

d) performing selectively at least one of delivery of the received order information, a user authentication process, a billing process and updating a content database based on the received order information interpretation and communication packetization of the order information depending on in response to the determined service level.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~return path management method of~~ as set forth in claim 6, wherein the service level of ~~if the user's order is determined to be delivered to the provider~~ systems are categorized into belonging to a first service level, a second service level, a third service level and a fourth service level, ~~the system identifies an URL address of the provider system from the order information and delivers the received order information to the provider system in a packetized form, if the user's order is determined to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a second level, the return path server performs a user authentication referring to the order information and the user database, and delivers a user authentication information in combination with the received order information to the provider system in a packetized form, if the user's order is determined to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a third level, the return path server performs a user authentication referring to the order information and the user database, extracts a billing information from the order information to perform a billing processing in contact with a financial server as a representative of the provider, and delivers a user authentication information and a billing processing information in combination with the received order information to the provider system in a packetized form, or if the user's order is determined to be delivered to the provider system belonging to a fourth level, the return path server performs a user authentication referring to the order information and the user database, extracts a billing information from the order information to perform a billing processing in contact with a financial server as a representative of the provider, delivers a user authentication information and a billing processing information in combination with the received order information to the provider system in a packetized form,~~

wherein with the service level of the first provider system being the first service level, the step d) comprises verifying a URL of the first provider system through the order information and delivering the order information to the first provider system,

wherein with the service level of the first provider system being the second service level, the step d) comprises processing user authentication information with reference to a user database,

wherein with the service level of the first provider system being the third service level, the step d) comprises processing the user authentication information with reference to the user database and processing billing information in contact with a financial server, and

wherein with the service level of the first provider being the fourth service level, the step d) comprises processing the user authentication information with reference to the user database and processing billing information in contact with the financial server, and updating the content database in response to a request of referring to contents received from the first provider system.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~return path management method of as set forth in claim 6,~~ wherein the return path management system further comprises a first transaction server, a second transaction server, a third transaction server, and a fourth transaction server each coupled to the return path server, wherein the first, second, third, and fourth transaction servers process the received order information differently in accordance with the service level ~~has a hierarchy structure such that determination of the service level to the order information received from the user and processing of communication packets delivered from the return path management system to the provider system are separately performed.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The return path management method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the return path management system comprises a return path server and four transaction servers, the four transaction servers including the first, second, third, and fourth transaction servers coupled to the return path server in which the return path server receives the order information from the user, identifies the provider system to which the order information is required to be delivered and determines the level to which the identified provider system belongs, ~~referring to~~ as determined by the provider system, and ~~the~~ a first transaction server of the four transaction servers treats the received order information to be delivered to the provider system belonging to ~~the~~ a first service level, ~~the~~ a second transaction server of the four transaction servers treats the received order information to be delivered to the provider system belonging to ~~the~~ a second service level in which a user authentication is performed ~~using referring to~~ the user database, ~~the~~ a third transaction server of the four transaction servers treats the received order information to be delivered to the provider system belonging to ~~the~~ a third service level in which a user authentication process is performed ~~using referring to~~ the user database and ~~the~~ a billing processing is performed in contact with a financial server, and ~~the~~ a fourth transaction server of the four transaction servers treats the received order information to be delivered to the provider system belonging to ~~the~~ a fourth service level in which a user authentication is performed referring to the user database, ~~the~~ a billing processing is performed in contact with ~~the~~ a financial server, and an update the content database ~~of contents~~ is performed ~~referring to the content database~~.